

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/517,062

Examiner

Thomas J. Williams

Applicant(s)

SAKAI ET AL.

Art Unit

3683

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to June 19, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-6.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date See Continuation Sheet
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date: 12/03/04; 6/19/06, 10/20/06.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. Acknowledgement is made in the receipt of the amendment and information disclosure statement filed June 19, 2006 and the information disclosure statement filed October 20, 2006.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Matthew L. Schneider on December 20, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows: the dependency of claims 5 and 6 have been changed from depending upon claim 2 to depending upon claim 1, and appear as follows:

Claim 5. An emergency brake system for a vehicle as claimed in claim 1 wherein after the second brake have been actuated, if hard braking by said first brake is not actuated, and determination by said controller is made that crashing of the vehicle into the obstacle will be avoided or if determination is made that the vehicle is at a stop, actuation of the second brake is stopped.

Claim 6. An emergency brake system for a vehicle as claimed in claim 1 wherein an alarm sound is produced when said second brake is actuated.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1 and 3-6 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious an emergency brake system for a vehicle, wherein a controller for determining whether or not the vehicle is going to crash into the obstacle detected by said obstacle detector means based on the speed and deceleration detected by said vehicle speed and deceleration detector means, after the actuation of hard braking or the actuation requirements have been detected by said hard braking detector; wherein said second brake is actuated if said controller determines that the vehicle is going to crash into the obstacle detected by said obstacle detector.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bernert et al., Howells et al. and Skrzypek teach an emergency brake system comprising a second brake for braking the vehicle by increasing frictional resistance with a road surface. Knoop et al. teach a device for automatically triggering a vehicle brake. Peggie teaches a hard braking detector.

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5. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Williams whose telephone number is 571-272-7128.

The examiner can normally be reached on Wednesday-Friday from 6:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James McClellan, can be reached at 571-272-6786. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-6584.

TJW

December 20, 2006

THOMAS J. WILLIAMS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Thomas Williams

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12-20-06